

The Gentle Grafter.

"Well," said a woman to me the other day. "the housing shortage and the altitudinous price of rent have one good thing about them, anyway. They furnish an alibi that we can hand out to our relatives and friends and the people we used to know back home, who have the pleasing habit of grafting their annual visits to the city on us."

"For years I have been the victim of these hold-up artists, and I've played in no worse luck than everybody else I know; for the minute you acquire a place in a city where you can furnish free board and lodging, everybody that you ever knew who lives out of town conceives a passionate affection for you."

"Your own forty-ninth cousin, and your husband's cousins in the seventy-second degree; girls that you went to school with when you were in the kindergarten and haven't seen since; folks who have no claim on you except that you used to live in the same a longing to see you that they can no longer resist, and they write and tell you so, and that they are coming on the 5:45 a. m. train on Wednesday, and want you please meet them at the station because a city is so confusing to one who is not used to it."

"Why, if I were to recite what I have suffered at the hands of the bandits, it would sound like a chapter out of Fox's 'Book of Martyrs.' When Jim and I were married and he brought me to the city to live, we went to housekeeping in a little four-room apartment. Before we got settled and our bridal presents unpacked a distant relative whom I hadn't seen since I wore pig tails, descended upon us, bag and baggage. She said she was passing through the city and felt she just couldn't go by without taking a peek at dear little Elsie in her new home. It took her two weeks to peek, and she hadn't been gone a day when another flock of these birds of prey, this time Jim's bunch of vultures, came to roost on our sofa bed, and from then on we have hardly had a day that we have been free from some self-invited guest."

"Boys hunting for a job arrive with letters from the parents, whom we have the accursed luck to know at some previous state of our lives, saying that they know we will be so glad to take darling Jim in until he finds something to do; or the mother of some girls to whom we have the misfortune to be kin in some faint degree, drops us a missive informing us that she is sending Mamie and Sadie by the next train for a little visit to the city as she has been promising the dear children a treat for a long time, and would we mind letting them stay with us for a month, they are such lambs, and it's so nice to have young people about the house."

"Or we get a screed from some poor old soul who has been advised to consult a city specialist about her cancer, and she wants to come and stay with us and have us trot around with her to the hospital. Or somebody from Squeedunk, or Rabbit's Track, has been told by her doctor that she needs a change, and she thinks nothing would be so delightful as to come to the city, only she hasn't the money to stay at a hotel, but if it would be convenient for us to have her, she could come easily on Monday week."

"Of course, anyone who has the nerve to hold you up for her board bill isn't going to be satisfied with petty larceny like that. She goes the whole hog, and you not only have to feed and lodge her, but you have to pay for her theatre and opera tickets and her street car fare. So far as my observation goes, a self-invited guest has a Yale lock on her pocket-book, and you would have to chloroform her before you could get a nickel out of her."

"It is no secret to the people who come and camp on us that Jim and I are a poor couple struggling to get a start in the world, and that every dollar counts with us. Also they perceive that I do my housework, and that by homing in on us they add immeasurably to my labor and the expense of our living."

"But does that keep them away?" It does not. They only crowd in and put me to the trouble of getting up company meals for them, but they expect me to run around with them, taking them to all sorts of amusement, and to spend days in the shops where they look over everything, from automobiles to safety pins, and buy nothing. And never by any chance do they pay for a lunch at a restaurant or for a theatre ticket, or even pay their car fare."

"And the expense of entertaining these people you hate because they are such poor, mean little grafters, counts up enormously, and it keeps me mad thinking of all the things I want that I do without because I have spent the money on these pikers. Why we stand for it, I don't know. Lack of backbone, I guess, and because we have been taught hospitali-

ty is one of the seven shining virtues.

"So it is. Nobody admires it or loves to practice it better than I, but I want to pick out my recipients and select the time, the place, the woman, so to speak. I object to being held up and forced to deliver invitations whether it's convenient or not."

"But I know I'd never have got up the spunk to slam the dope in the face of Uncle Jezeboah, who's got a couple of hundred thousand dollars tucked away in first mortgages, but who would rather die than spend a penny of it on a hotel. Nor would my craven spirit ever get bold enough to enable me to write to a self-invited guest that I didn't want her, and wouldn't have her, and so the housing shortage has provided me with a ready made excuse for not entertaining all and sundry."

"I'm going to live in one room, and a bath and kitchenette where nobody can visit me. Thank God for all His mercies."

Mrs. J. H. M.

**Gone Stark Mad.
Done in the Dark.**

A new tariff equivalent to fifty-six per cent tax on one hundred and fifteen millions of people has just been sprung on the public in Washington and will be jammed, in a few days, through Congress. It was not written by Congress but by certain protected interests. That tariff means tragedy to our agriculture in that seeds, bulbs and thereby boosting American agriculture—these matters are now taxed. Coming taxed are such universally used matters as crimson clover, hairy vetch, cabbage, turnips, alfalfa, grass seeds, bulbs, and garden seeds. Only a bagatelle of our American seeds are home grown. They never will be American grown. A little growing was accomplished during the war but at prices four to five times the prices that usually obtain. This seed tax arbitrarily and wilfully puts a burden on all of our agriculture and upon every woman who wants to beautify her front yard.

Our nursing and florist trade are completely dependent upon Europe for many types of seedlings and cuttings. These, too, have been highly taxed.

The Terrible Record.

The terrible record in the past in this country is that every protected interest soon becomes a trust and a monopoly. Every trust restricts pro-country today faces a new trust, the American seed growing trust whose actions will be just as have been all the other trusts in our country. Agricultural prosperity, on the contrary, depends on seeds. No one can compute the intrinsic value of a new economic seed as generally introduced. The measure of agricultural prosperity depends upon the amount of seeds as sold. Curtail the use of seeds and you deflate agriculture. More seeds and better seeds always mean better farming.

Satanic Doctrines.

There is no quicker way of going mad than by being possessed with some false doctrine. No country can prosper whose governmental theories are neither economic nor normal. Our government today is guided and impelled by the following three doctrines: first, that we must ever be on the defense; second, that we must be self-contained; third, that we must live as a nation the life of isolation.

You and I, indeed, today are living in a continuous war atmosphere. If we spent one-tenth the time and money towards general disarmament and towards world peace that we do in creating defenses and creating a war atmosphere then our nation would be thousand times happier and more prosperous.

It is neither economic nor necessary for us to be self-contained. Let every man and every nation do that which best they can do and do it as a contribution towards the general good. England has always been the most prosperous nation while Switzerland has always been perhaps the happiest nation, yet they have been of all nations least possessed of those elements which our present government means by self containment. As for the theorem of isolation, only a blind, ignorant, selfish, heathen man could defend it.

Agricultural Stagnation.

Our agriculture, along with everything else today, is in the throes of stagnation. It had been hoped that agricultural activities in wide diversification could take place this year so that agricultural recovery could quickly obtain. It is too bad that our agriculture should now be handicapped by this recent maneuver in Washington. Our agriculture must look upon this seed tax as a form of robbery and murder. When I wish to plant seeds in field, garden or front yard I want the best seeds and the seeds that

come from the best habitats and seeds that are the least prohibitory in price. I am not at all interested in the personal fortunes of just a few men in California, Colorado and Long Island—especially if these men are trying to put upon me the usually poorer thing and at the higher price. If we want in general to see the effect upon our agriculture as produced by the controlling political theorems of today then let us look at some present day tabulated list of agricultural prices. Many of our agricultural prices today are without warrant; these low prices would never have obtained had the methods of the government been different.

Importing Impossible.

Not content with taxing imported seeds and plants this Congressional bill makes this unheard of stipulation, viz., that the valuation for taxation shall not be based on European costs but upon an American competitive cost. Thus the importer is not only doubly taxed but moreover he is kept in the dark as to what this American valuation, which, of course, is not a fixed matter, shall be. He, therefore, has no concept as to what his goods will cost him delivered in his store. Indeed, the whole aim of this bill seems to make all importation impossible—regardless of how necessary this importation may be for the public welfare.—N. L. Willet in Augusta Chronicle.

Cotton Acreage Reduced a Fourth.

According to report of B. B. Hare, agricultural statistician in South Carolina for the bureau of crop estimates of the United States department of agriculture, the cotton acreage in the state June 25 was 2,190,000 acres, which represents a reduction of 27 per cent as compared with last year. The condition on June 25 was 65 per cent of normal against 74 per cent on the corresponding date last year and 78 per cent in 1919, the ten-year average being 77 per cent.

The acreage planted and standing in the entire United States on June 25 is estimated at 26,519,000 acres, a reduction of 28.4 per cent or 10,524,000 acres less than last year. The condition on June 25 was 69.2 per cent of normal against 70.7 per cent and the corresponding date of 1920, and 70 per cent in 1919, the ten-year average being 79.8 per cent.

Mr. Hare's report of last month indicated that an average of 267 pounds of fertilizer has been or will be used per acre to cotton this year, against 490 pounds last year. It is estimated that 2 per cent of the fertilizers used this season will analyze 8-3-0; 6 per cent 8-4-0; 47 per cent 8-3-3; 4 per cent 8-4-4; 5 per cent 9-2-0; 8 per cent 9-2-2; 7 per cent nitrate of soda and 3 per cent "other grades."

Condition of cotton in South Carolina on June 25, 1920 and 1921, by counties follows in tables below:

	1920	1921
Abbeville	76	66
Aiken	70	65
Allendale	73	59
Anderson	78	68
Bamberg	72	63
Barthwell	71	59
Beaufort	60	56
Berkeley	78	64
Calhoun	77	61
Charleston	76	60
Cherokee	80	70
Chester	72	64
Chesterfield	76	59
Clarendon	72	61
Colleton	74	59
Darlington	78	71
Dillon	76	68
Dorchester	70	55
Edgefield	76	66
Fairfield	72	61
Florence	77	65
Georgetown	75	55
Greenville	79	68
Greenwood	74	65
Hampton	70	58
Horry	74	68
Jasper	60	55
Kershaw	75	62
Lancaster	73	60
Laurens	78	67
Lee	75	70
Lexington	72	64
McCormick	70	61
Marion	75	65
Marlboro	80	72
Newberry	74	63
Oconee	75	67
Orangeburg	74	61
Pickens	76	67
Richland	70	58
Saluda	74	65
Spartanburg	78	68
Sumter	72	61
Union	74	60
Williamsburg	72	63
York	74	62

Conditions of cotton on June 25 in other states is as follows: Virginia 70; North Carolina 67; Georgia 64; Florida 70; Alabama 58; Mississippi 67; Louisiana 64; Texas 72; Arkansas 78; Tennessee 74; Missouri 80; Oklahoma 75; California 77; Arizona 88; New Mexico 87.—The State.

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Notice.

Notice is hereby given that an application has been made for a duplicate Certificate of Deposit No. 3018 for \$1,000.00 issued to Mrs. E. A. Werts of Johnston, S. C., by the Bank of Johnston on July 21, 1919, and payable July 21, 1920. If any person or persons are interested in this certificate of deposit, they must show cause at the Bank of Johnston on or before July 9, 1921, why said bank should not issue a duplicate of the certificate above described.

W. B. OUZTS,
Vice-President.

June 20, 1921.

Notice.

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